

Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 466

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

DIA

S E C R E T NDJAMENA 2826

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PFOR, CD

SUBJ: UNEASY CALM PREVAILS FOLLOWING EXPULSION FRENCH FORCES

1. REMAINING FRENCH FORCES WITHDREW FROM CHAD WITHOUT INCIDENT OCTOBER 27, THUS MEETING DEADLINE SET BY GOC AS REPRISAL FOR DSSATISFACTION GOF HANDLING NEGOTIATIONS RELEASE FRENCH HOSTAGE HELD BY REBELS NORTHERN CHAD. GOC PRESIDENT MALLOUM AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS HAVE REPEATEDLY PUBLICLY STATED THAT GOC DECISION COMPEL WITHDRAWAL FRENCH MILITARY FTOULD NOT HAVE ANY EFFECT OTHER ASPECTS FRANCO-CHADIAN COOPERATION. PRESUMABLY AS SYMBOL THIS POLICY, GOC AWARDED ORDER OF CHAD TO THREE SENIOR DEPARTING FRENCH MILITARY OFFICERS, WITH PERHAPS UNCONSCIOUS IRONY. THIS THEME ALSO STRESSED DURING BRIEF VISIT MORNING OCT 30 GABON PRESIDENT BONGO IN ROLE OF MEDIATOR BETWEEN GOF AND GOC. BONGO STATED IN DEPARTURE PRESS CONFERENCE HISBELIEF THAT FRENCH PREMIER CHIRAC WOULD BE VISITINGRYAD TO REACH UNDERSTANDING WITH GOC ON NEW BASE FOR FRANCO-CHADIAN COOPERATION.

2. IN PAST SEVERAL WEEKS, GOC HAS MOUNTED MAJOR POLITICAL

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EFFORT TO EFFECT RECONCILIATION WITH REBEL FORCES IN NORTH

LED BY HISSEIN HABRE. WHILE GOC MAY BE WILLING ACCEPT PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT BY HABRE HIMSELF PLUS NOMINAL NUMBER HIS LIEUTENANTS, HABRE INSISTENCE THAT (ACCORDING ONE SOURCE) UP TO 4,000 HIS SUPPORTERS BE PLACED KEY POSITIONS MILITARY AND CIVIL GOVERNMENT MANIFESTLY UNACCEPTABLE TO SOUTHERN DOMINATED GOC, AS ARE HIS MAOIST POLITICAL CONVICTIONS. DISASTROUS GOC EFFORT OCTOBER 29 MOUNT MILITARY ENGAGEMENT AGAINST REBEL FORCES NEAR ZOUAR (REPORTED OTHER CHANNELS, NOTAL), HOWEVER, WOULD APPEAR TO MARK GOC DECISION TO ATTEMPT, ONCE AGAIN, MILITARY RATHER THAN POLITICAL SOLUTION TO REBELLION.

3. AFTER SIX AND ONE HALF MONTHS SINCE MILITARY TAKEOVER FOLLOWING APRIL COUP, NEW REGIME HAS BEEN UNABLE DEMONSTRATE PARTICULAR COMPETENCE FOR EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT NOR HAS IT MADE NOTICEABLE PROGRESS IN DEALING WITH CHAD'S ADMITTEDLY MYRIAD ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS. PRESIDENT MALLOUM HAS EMERGED AS INCREASINGLY DOMINANT LEADER OF REGIME, BUT LACKS EFFECTIVE PERSONAL POWER BASE BEYOND PERVASIVE APPOINTMENT FELLOW M'BAYE TRIBESMEN TO INFLUENTIAL POSTS ON SCALE WHICH OTHERS GRUMBLY DESCRIBE AS EXCEEDING ANYTHING UNDERTAKEN BY LATE PRESIDENT TOMBALBAYE. INFLUENCE NORTHERNERS AND MOSLEMS IN GOC NOW ALMOST NIL, AND GOC EFFORTS CONTROL PRICES AND PROFITS AS MEANS GAINING CONFIDENCE AVERAGE CHADIAN HAS ALMOST COMPLETELY ALIENATED URBAN MERCHANTS, SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF WHOM MOSLEM. IN OPINION ONE LOCAL ARAB AMBASSADOR WHO FOLLOWS CLOSELY STATUS CHAD ARAB AND MOSLEM POPULATION, CURRENT REGIME HAS ALIENATED ALL ARAB STATES OF ALL POLITICAL PERSUASIONS.

4. WHILE FREQUENT RUMORS OF DISSENSION AMONG SMC MEMBERS THRIVE, WE HAVE LITTLE FACTUAL INFORMATION ON INTERNAL DISAGREEMENTS. IN NUMBER INSTANCES IT APPEARS REGIME HAS RESOLUTELY AVOIDED TAKING ANY DECISION RATHER THAN TAKING ONE NOT POPULAR WITH SOME MEMBERS. THIS INACTIVITY IS NOW CAUSE COMMON CRITICISM OF REGIME. SOME MORE CONSERVATIVE OBSERVERS FEAR UNSPECIFIED "COMMUNIST" AND "SOCIALIST" TENDENCIES OF UNNAMED YOUNGER AND JUNIOR ELEMENTS OF REGIME. WHILE EMB TENDS DISCOUNT ALLEGATIONS OF WIDESPREAD DEEP INTELLECTUAL OR IDEOLOGICAL COMMITMENTS OF THESE MORE JUNIOR AND YOUNGER ELEMENTS, WE DO AGREE THAT THESE PERSONS REPRESENT PROBABLY SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL SOURCE SUPPORT FOR PROPOSALS OF ACTION, HOWEVER

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RADICAL, AS OPPOSED CONTINUED INACTIVITY. THEY MAY WELL BE BENEFICIARIES WIDESPREAD CONVICTION THAT CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP IS BOTH DESIRABLE AND PERHAPS IMMINENT. DWYER

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NNN

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